

## Executive Update

[www.dutchessny.gov](http://www.dutchessny.gov)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

e-Government	2
Breaking News	2
MoneyWatch	3
Spotlight	3
Coming Soon	4



*Happy New Year and welcome to our winter edition of the Executive*

*Update.*

*There are many exciting opportunities on our agenda for 2005 including the continuation of County efforts to preserve land and manage development within our borders, parks improvements, road and bridge reconstruction and additional technology enhancements that will save precious dollars for our future.*

*Please feel free to visit our website for more information or contact me via e-mail regarding any topics you may find of interest within.*

*We hope you will adopt this publication as part of your news regimen. We welcome your comments at*

[countyexec@co.dutchess.ny.us](mailto:countyexec@co.dutchess.ny.us)

- William R. Steinhaus  
County Executive

### COVER STORY: STOP THE SPRAWL

#### County Executive gives 14th State of the County

Dutchess County Executive William R. Steinhaus gave his 14th State of the County Address Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at the historic Cunnene-Hackett Cultural Center in downtown Poughkeepsie. The address offered insight and information on many areas of concern to the community including *County Finances: Managing our Local Destiny; Improving and Safeguarding Lives: Cross Systems and Community Connections; and Managing Development* and “*Sprawl Busting; Fostering and Implementing Connections.*”

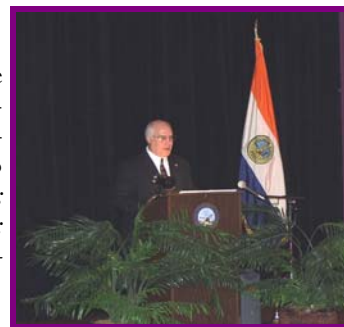
“I will take this opportunity to address the growth issue in Dutchess County – an issue on the minds of many residents,” said the County Executive. “Residents feel a sense of urgency about the need to prevent excessive growth and want to limit urban sprawl in the County now more than ever. So do I.”

Since the County adopted the *Partnership for Manageable Growth* in 1999, Dutchess has entered into 12 partnerships in eight towns placing significant agricultural and recreational acreage under protective open space easements. County resources have been used to permanently protect important farmland, view sheds and recreational assets.

Executive Steinhaus introduced in his address how town government, through local planning can become effective “*sprawl busters*”. He has called upon communities to outline protection strategies, and offered them the assistance from the County. The concept asks each community to ensure its zoning and zoning practices “will allow development to fit into, rather than overtake, the landscape with suburban sprawl.”

One option is for each town to identify its significant open space resources and develop a protection strategy. Additionally, each local community should complete biodiversity studies and outline protection strategies for its significant habitats. “There is not a minute to waste, and we at the County are committed to help when communities ask,” said Steinhaus.

The speech in its entirety is available on-line at [www.dutchessny.gov](http://www.dutchessny.gov).



#### Dutchess County Partnership for Manageable Growth Open Space and Farmland Protection Matching Grant Program

##### Farmland Protection Summary

		Acres	DC Funds	Primary Funds
<b>Completed</b>				
Mead	Town of Red Hook	100.0	\$ 77,729	\$ 233,187
Silver Ledge	East Fishkill	401.5	\$ 609,000	\$1,238,450
Pulver Farm	Pine Plains	171.4	\$ 236,987	\$ 710,963
Linden	Town of Red Hook	234.0	\$ 487,957	\$ 487,957
Steiner	Town of Red Hook	228.3	\$ 650,000	\$ 650,000
		<b>1135.2</b>	<b>\$2,061,673</b>	<b>\$3,320,557</b>

##### Open Space Summary

		Acres	DC Funds	Primary Funds
<b>Completed</b>				
Peach Hill	T/Poughkeepsie	157.6	\$ 252,000	\$ 548,000
Forbus/Butternut	City of Poughkeepsie	.4	\$ 23,300	\$ 46,950
Carnwath	Town of Wappinger	95.0	\$ 280,000	\$ 520,000
Stone Church	Dover	58.5	\$ 441,250	\$ 508,750
		<b>311.5</b>	<b>\$ 996,550</b>	<b>\$1,114,950</b>

## Did you know ...

- **Dutchess County operations has saved an average of \$9,300 per month in telecommunications costs since 2002. A total cost savings of \$211,560.**
- **The Dutchess County Water and Wastewater Authority, New York State, IBM and County Government have completed agreements to begin building the Central Dutchess Water Pipeline from Poughkeepsie to East Fishkill.**
- **The Department of Public Works plowed 26½ inches of snow since the first snow of November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2004 and County snowplows have covered over 12,000 miles of road this season. In the winter of 1995/96 Dutchess County received 97.3 inches of snow!**
- **According to the NYS Department of Labor year-end report, Dutchess County added 2,300 more jobs than 12 months earlier.**

*"Dutchess County is growing faster in jobs than the rest of the mid-Hudson region."*

*- Ann Davis, Director of the Marist College Bureau of Economic Research*



## E-GOVERNMENT BITS

### Dutchess Launches Criminal Justice and Public Safety Computer System

County Executive Steinhaus introduced a plan to the legislature that would fund a new Criminal Justice and Public Safety Computer System to further improve interagency collaborations and data sharing. The new database system would be complete with digital mug shots that can be viewed in sheriff's vehicles, on-line arrest warrants, digital fingerprints that can be transmitted to state and federal agencies and point of location maps which can indicate activity to both the Sheriff's Office and the County's 911 Center. The one time cost for the new system represents only 1% of the operating budgets of county agencies utilizing the system.

## BREAKING NEWS: Dutchess County Introduces New Riverfront Park



With the announcement in 1997 that the State of New York intended to dispose of most of the Hudson River Psychiatric Center for private redevelopment, County Executive Steinhaus asked Governor Pataki to retain approximately 27 acres west of Route 9 for river access, including nearly 5 acres of land on the river side of the train tracks.

Through a cooperative agreement, the State will maintain ownership of the *Quiet Cove* land and oversee the conversion of the property to a riverfront park by Dutchess County while the County has agreed to improve, maintain and operate the property.

Initial plans for the new *Quiet Cove Riverfront Park* include a boat ramp for non-motorized boating and a deep water bulkhead for access by larger educational vessels such as the *Clearwater*, the *Half-Moon* and research ships associated with the study of the Hudson River. There will also be picnic and fishing areas, public restrooms, a playground, upland parking and eventually a community meeting room.

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*Quiet Cove* improvements are slated to be phased in over a three-year period with public access available in the summer of 2005.



County Executive Steinhaus, Chairman of the Legislature Bradford Kendall and Poughkeepsie Town Supervisor Joe Davis unveil sign at new location for Quiet Cove Riverfront Park, Rt. 9, Poughkeepsie

## Where Do Your County Tax Dollars Go?

- **The Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development has worked the better part of a decade on behalf of area non-profits to secure over \$5.7 million in federal HUD funding for homeless assistance programs in Dutchess.**
- **The Dutchess County Health Department administered 5,244 flu vaccinations at five clinics held this winter.**
- **The Dutchess County Office of Computer Information Systems installed GIS (geographic information systems) workstations in 17 municipalities in Nov./Dec. 2004. 27 municipalities now have access.**

**MONEYWATCH BY VALERIE SOMMERVILLE, BUDGET DIRECTOR**

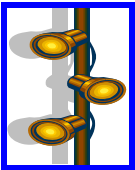
Dutchess County government has officially begun the implementation of a new financial management system that will replace our 30 year old outdated system. While our current system has served us well, it is difficult to maintain and lacks the system integration required to efficiently operate county government. We thank County Executive Bill Steinhaus for supporting this important initiative, and we also appreciate the Legislature's approval of funding to move this project forward. The members of our financial management system team, led by myself and Tim Mahler, Commissioner of OCIS, have worked diligently over the past year to study the county's needs and se-

lect a vendor, *New World Systems*, to best meet our requirements. Comptroller Richard Noel and his staff have played an integral part in this process, along with Finance Commissioner Rita Brannen and her staff, Central Services, Personnel and Risk Management.

*New World Systems*, our financial management system vendor, states, ***"Dutchess County conducted one of the most thorough, well thought-out selection processes New World Systems has seen to date. The County took a strategic approach and mapped out current and long-term goals that would benefit the County and its citizens."***

We are currently in the first phase of the project, the *change management review process* which

looks at current work processes and identifies how our workflow will best fit within the new system. When the new system is implemented, it will provide hundreds of County staff with new tools and resources necessary to do their jobs more efficiently and effectively. Most importantly, it helps county government meet its stewardship responsibilities with our taxpayer's money. In the future, the new system will provide for e-Government allowing the public to process financial transactions over the Internet. Throughout the 18-24 month implementation process, we will provide periodic updates to keep you informed on our progress. Working together as a team, I'm confident we will make this project a success!



### **SPOTLIGHT DECEMBER: COUNTY EMPLOYEES ANSWER THE CALL**

Several Dutchess County employees have answered the call to duty by being actively engaged in service during Operation Iraqi Freedom. To highlight their accomplishments and honor their service we thought we'd bring their ranks among our 'ranks' to your attention.

#### **Health Department:**

**Robert Bready**, with six months at the Dutchess County Medical Examiner's Office as the Chief Medical Investigator was called up to active duty in May 2004 for the NY Army National Guard and was sent to Iraq in October 2004. He holds the rank of Major having received numerous awards and service ribbons to include two US Army Com-

mendation Medals and the US Army Achievement Medal. At this time, it is anticipated that he will serve Operation Iraqi Freedom for a total of 18 months.

#### **Dutchess County Jail:**

**Walter Sasse**, age 27- with 2+ years as a Correction Officer was activated in November 2003. He went to Iraq in February 2004 and returned October 2004. He returned to work this January. He holds the rank of SSG with the XVIII Airborne Corps & Fort Bragg of the US Army. As a result of his service he received 7 medals and 3 ribbons.

**Justin Johnson**, age 28 - with 5+ years as a Correction Officer has served in IRAQ since 2004. He is

currently enlisted for 4 years with the US Army and is on a military leave from the County.

#### **Sheriff's Department**

**Sgt. Gary Corbett**, age-55 with 33 years of service as a Deputy Sheriff was activated in February 2003. He went to Iraq in April 2003 and came back April 2004. He returned to work in June 2004.

He holds the rank of First Sgt. with the 442nd Military Police Company of the NY Army National Guard. As a result of his service he received 7 medals. The most prestigious being the Bronze Star and the NY State Conspicuous Service Cross.

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**Our deepest gratitude.  
Come home safe!**

### Departmental Updates

- **The Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development secured over \$767,000 in HUD money to fund 6 homeless assistance programs in Dutchess for 2005.**
- **The Dutchess County Medical Reserve Corps has recruited 530 citizen volunteers since October of last year. The DC Reserve is trained to respond to community's needs in the event of a large scale emergency or natural disaster. For more information or to join call 845/562-7520 or e-mail: [DutchessMRC@normet.org](mailto:DutchessMRC@normet.org)**
- **The Dutchess County Office for the Aging will host its annual Country-Western Day celebration, Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> between 10 AM and 2 PM. The day will include plenty of old-time country music and a delicious BBQ lunch! Ten-gallon hats, wranglers, cowboy boots and other western gear is encouraged. For information about the Senior Friendship Center nearest you, call the Office for the Aging at (845) 486-2555, or email at: [ofa@co.dutchess.ny.us](mailto:ofa@co.dutchess.ny.us)**





## Dutchess County, NY

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Phone: 845/486-2000  
Fax: 845/486-2021



### Join Our Team

Dutchess County offers a wide array of job opportunities from the high-tech professional, to engineering, to life-guard positions for summer Parks employment. For a listing of employment opportunities in Dutchess County Government and information on upcoming civil service exams administered by the County Personnel Department go to [www.dutchessny.gov](http://www.dutchessny.gov) and click on **Employment Opportunities**. Or visit us on the 5th Floor of the County Office Building.



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For a complete listing of County News visit our website and go to County Executive, Executive Department News

To:

## ON OUR HORIZON: COMING SOON...

### Dutchess County Discount Prescription Drug Cards

Dutchess County will make available discount prescription drug cards this March to help consumers cope with the high costs of prescriptions. The county will make the program available at no cost to the consumer under a program sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo). Dutchess joins only 30 counties nationwide by making this program available to residents. The average savings is expected to be 20% off the retail price of most commonly prescribed drugs.

The program will benefit

those families who are uninsured or underinsured for prescription drugs. The discount card will be

*"As a member of the National Association of Counties Board of Directors I am pleased to network nationwide for programs that will benefit residents, right here in Dutchess County." –County Executive William R. Steinhaus*

made available at participating pharmacies county-wide and at the County Departments of Health, Mental Hygiene, Social Services and Aging. The Dutchess County Community Action Agency and Dutchess Outreach will

also make cards available. For a complete listing of pharmacies and locations log-on to [www.dutchessny.gov](http://www.dutchessny.gov).

There is no enrollment fee, no restrictions or limits on frequency of use and card-holders and their family members may use the card any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance, Medicaid or Medicare.

For more information contact the following Dutchess County Departments:

Health	486-3400
Mental Hygiene	486-2700
Social Services	486-3000
Aging	486-2555

**The hotline for Child Protective Services is 1-800-342-3720**

**Dutchess County Government Employees** were highlighted at the United Way's Annual Halloween Luncheon for contributing **\$100,640** to the 2004 United Way

*"It is incredible the commitment our workforce has to this community."*

*County Executive Steinhaus, Dec. 2004*

Campaign. Dutchess County partners with our area United Way in support of programs at the Catharine Street Community Center, Family Services, the Grace Smith House and the Beacon Community Center among others.

In addition, County Government collected over **1,000** toys this holiday season for the Toys for Tots annual drive.